

Cancel claims 15 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer and insert new claims 19 and 20 as follows:

-- 19. The combination according to claim 13 wherein said first radial distance is larger than said radial spacing of all portions of said outer circumferential surface disposed between said color band and said free end.

20. The combination according to claim 13 wherein said outer circumferential surface includes a first portion extending from said free end, and a second portion spaced radially outwardly from said first portion by a radial surface of said tongue oriented perpendicular to said center axis, said second portion defining said portion of said outer circumferential surface on which said color band is disposed. --

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 recites that the portion of the outer circumferential surface of the tongue 118 on which the color band 114 is disposed flush (i.e., without indentation) is spaced radially from the center axis by a first radial distance, and that all other portions of the outer circumferential surface disposed between the free end 130 and the color band are spaced radially from the center axis by a radial spacing no larger than the first radial distance.

For example, with reference to attached Exhibit A (i.e., a copy of Fig. 5), the color band 114 is spaced radially from the center axis of the tongue 118 by a first

radial distance R1, and the remaining portions of the outer circumferential surface disposed between the color band and the free end 130 have a largest radial spacing R2 which is no larger than the first radius R1. Consequently, an operator attempting to insert the terminator 100 onto the tongue 118 has an unobstructed view of the color band. That is important, because the operator may be using a hot stick to maneuver the terminator 100 and thus would be located a substantial distance from the tongue. An unobstructed view of the color band is thus highly beneficial to ensure that the operator is able, from a distance, to determine when the color band has been fully covered by the flange 116 of the terminator (i.e., that the terminator has been properly secured to the tongue).

None of the references discloses or teaches such a structure. The Laipply et al. patent discloses positioning a color band at the bottom of an annular groove (see column 4, lines 1-3 of Laipply et al.). Thus, the color band will not be flush with the surface in which the groove is formed and a view thereof will be obstructed.

In attached Exhibit B, it is shown how Fig. 2 of Eley would be modified employing the teaching of Laipply et al. That is, an annular groove has been formed in the tongue 32 of the bushing 30 of Eley, with the floor of the groove having a color band. It will be appreciated that the view of an operator attempting to attach the terminal 12 will be partially blocked by a side of the groove, thereby making it more difficult to ensure that a proper connection has been made. The operator may have to move closer to the tongue, thereby diminishing the safe distance between the operator and the bushing 30.

Serial No. 08/262,460
Attorney Dkt 006523-150

The specification has been amended to recite language now used in claim 13, as required by 37 CFR 1.75(d)(i), and Fig. 5 has been amended to provide additional reference numerals to designate portions of the tongue now being referred to.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 13 and dependent claims 19 and 20 distinguish patentably over the proposed combination of Eley and Laipply et al.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 8, 1998



#7
1-16-98
JWm

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 006523-150

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
TODD K. KNAPP et al.)
Application No. 08/821,760) Group Art Unit: 2109
Filed: March 20, 1997) Examiner: H. Sough
For: VISUAL LATCHING INDICATOR)
ARRANGEMENT FOR AN)
ELECTRICAL BUSHING AND)
TERMINATOR)

DRAWING AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

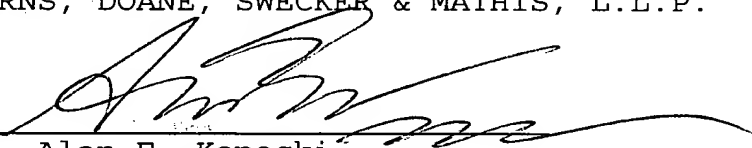
Sir:

Approval is requested for amending Fig. 5 as shown
in red on the attached copy thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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